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## Letter dated 25 April 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union adopted at its 40th meeting, on 6 October 2005, in Addis Ababa and to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) of 21 October 2005, under which an international working group was created to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of the peace process and the preparation of free, fair, open and transparent elections.

Please find attached the text of the communiqué issued by the International Working Group following its sixth ministerial meeting, held in Abidjan on 20 April 2006.

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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## Annex

[Original: English and French]

### Final communiqué of the sixth ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire

**Abidjan, 20 April 2006**

1. The sixth ministerial level meeting of the International Working Group was held in Abidjan on 20 April 2006, under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Rodolphe Adada, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Francophonie of the Congo, and Mr. Pierre Schori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. In attendance were Ministers from France, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and South Africa, as well as the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, the High Representative for the Elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and representatives of Benin, Niger, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the African Union, the European Union and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

2. The Group examined the report of the Mediation Group. It was further briefed by the Prime Minister, the General Coordinator of the National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, and the acting Chairman of the National Commission for Supervision of Identification.

3. While highlighting the progress achieved, the Group expressed its deep concern regarding the delays encountered in the commencement of the activities essential to the effective implementation of the road map. In this regard, the Group underlined that, midway through the process, time is running out. The Group also shares the concern of the Secretary-General as expressed in paragraph 74 of his eighth report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2006/222), about the delay in the peace process and the consequences that would arise from any further blockages if deadlines were not met.

4. Bearing in mind the urgency of the matter, and in keeping with the deadlines set by Security Council resolution 1633 (2005) regarding the holding of the elections no later than 31 October 2006, the Group stressed the following:

(a) The Group recalled that the main Ivorian political leaders agreed, at their meeting held on 8 April under the auspices of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Chairman of the African Union, on the simultaneous and immediate implementation of the identification and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

(b) To that end, the Government of National Reconciliation should take all necessary measures to accelerate the simultaneous implementation of the identification and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

(c) The identification of citizens will allow the establishment of reliable voter lists, which should contribute to the holding of free, fair, open and transparent elections;

(d) The Group is concerned about the suspension of the dialogue between the Chiefs of Staff of the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Forces nouvelles and strongly encourages them to restore, under the leadership of

the Government, the conditions necessary for its smooth continuation, with a view to ensuring the effective commencement of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the dismantling of the militia, without further delay;

(e) The successful implementation of the identification and disarmament processes calls for the active and irreversible commitment of the political leaders. In this regard, the Group urges all Ivorian parties to sensitize their followers to the pressing need to abide by all commitments made during the Yamoussoukro I and II meetings.

5. In the light of persistent violations of resolutions 1633 (2005) and 1643 (2005), as highlighted in the eighth report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNOCI, the Group invites the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire to identify the perpetrators and not to hesitate to resort to appropriate measures.

6. The Group welcomed Mr. Gérard Stoudmann in his capacity as the new High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire. The Group invites all Ivorian parties to cooperate with him with a view to accelerating the preparations leading to the holding of credible elections.

7. The Group welcomes the redeployment of UNOCI troops to the western part of the country and requests the local authorities and communities to continue to cooperate closely with the United Nations mission, including respecting the freedom of movement of the impartial forces.

8. The Group recommends that the Security Council provide UNOCI, as soon as possible, with the additional means necessary to achieve its mandate.

9. The Group will hold its next meeting on 19 May 2006 in Côte d'Ivoire.